



FEMA

Date: Jan. 30, 2009
No.: 09-015
Contact: News Desk
202-646-3272

Press Release

FEMA COORDINATES FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO STATES AFFECTED BY SEVERE WINTER STORMS

Priorities Are Saving Lives, Protecting Public Health and Safety

WASHINGTON – The Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is helping to assist states affected by this week’s major winter storm.

Commonwealth of Kentucky

An Emergency Declaration from President Barack Obama cleared the way for federal aid for 61 designated counties.

FEMA began moving food, water and industrial-size emergency generators into the commonwealth Thursday morning. To date, 12 truckloads of water, six truckloads of meals ready-to-eat and 50 industrial-size generators to provide power for critical facilities have moved into the national logistics staging area at Fort Campbell. In addition, FEMA is fulfilling the commonwealth’s requests for fuel and communications equipment.

Federal Coordinating Officer Kim Kadesch went to the Kentucky Emergency Operations Center in Frankfort on Thursday, joining FEMA liaison personnel already there.

FEMA’s Regional Response Coordination Center in Atlanta activated at 7 a.m. Thursday morning, allowing several federal agencies to join in coordinated support of Kentucky’s efforts to protect life and property.

Under the emergency declaration, this aid comes under FEMA’s Public Assistance program for state agencies and affected local governments. FEMA directs other federal agencies and provides 75 percent federal funding for emergency measures.

State of Arkansas

An Emergency Declaration for the State of Arkansas was declared on Wednesday for severe winter storms that occurred January 26 and continuing. The declaration authorizes FEMA to provide emergency protective measures, limited to direct federal assistance, under the Public Assistance Program at 75 percent federal funding for 48 counties.

Regional Response Coordination Center is activated and working with Emergency Support Function 3 in the area of public works and engineering.

Acting Region Six Administrator is at the Arkansas Emergency Operations Center to coordinate with the Federal Coordinating Officer and State Director. Two Mobile Disaster Recovery Centers and the Region VI Incident Management Assistance Team are also deployed to the Arkansas State Emergency Operations Center

Individual Assistance (IA) has 4 Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) Teams prepositioned in Arkansas to be used as requested by the state. Four Public Assistance (PA) PDA teams begun assessments on January 30th; two PDA teams will begin PDAs on January 31st and one team will begin PDAs on February 1st.

Mission Assignments were completed with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for generator support. Generators are en route to the National Logistics Staging Area in Jonesboro to complement those already prepositioned in Fayetteville.

One trailer of water and one trailer of meals were delivered to the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock. In addition, one trailer of water and one trailer of meals were delivered to the logistics staging area in Jonesboro. Two trailers of water and two trailers of meals were delivered to the logistics staging area in Fayetteville.

The Oklahoma state EOC has returned to normal operations.

State of Missouri:

The Regional Response Coordination Center is activated and working with Emergency Support Functions 3, 6, 8 and 12. These include working with federal partners in the areas of public works, mass care, public health and energy.

FEMA Operations and Logistics liaison teams are working out of the state Office of Emergency Management in Jefferson City.

FEMA leads and supports the nation in a risk-based, comprehensive emergency management system of preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation, to reduce the loss of life and property and protect the nation from all hazards including natural disasters, acts of terrorism and man-made disasters.

###